

# IDENTITY THEFT

Having your identity stolen can be intrusive, scary, and have lasting and damaging effects on your finances, medical records and reputation.

Learn what you can do to prevent identity theft and what to do if you become a victim.



## NUMBER OF IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS & AMOUNT STOLEN

YEAR	INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED IN MILLIONS	AMOUNT STOLEN IN BILLIONS
2017	16.7	\$16.8
2016	15.4	\$16.2
2015	13.1	\$15.5
2014	12.7	\$16.4
2013	13.1	\$19.3
2012	12.6	\$22.1

Source: Javelin Strategy Research  
<https://www.lifelock.com/learn-identity-theft-resources-how-common-is-identity-theft.html>



## BEST PRACTICES

Be skeptical of any email message that asks for personal or financial information.

Use caution with all emails containing links or attachments even if the sender is someone familiar to you. Email addresses can be spoofed to resemble people you know. Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails.



Always use strong passwords or a passphrase that uses a combination of numbers, lower case and upper case letters, and symbols.

Change your passwords frequently, never share them, and don't use your UW NetID password for other accounts.

Apply all critical software patches to keep operating systems and applications up to date. This will help ensure that you receive security updates that protect machines and devices from data stealing threats such as malicious software (malware).



Use anti virus software and keep it updated to protect devices from the latest versions of malware.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT

- Visit the Washington State Office of the Attorney General's website at [atg.wa.gov/recovering-identity-theft-or-fraud](http://atg.wa.gov/recovering-identity-theft-or-fraud) for information and guidance on how to be prepared to respond and report the incident.
- Visit the FTC website at [consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft](http://consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft) for further information.
- If you suspect UW data has been exposed, go to [ciso.uw.edu/report/](http://ciso.uw.edu/report/) to report an incident.